



King County

5TH DISTRICT NEWS



DWIGHT PELZ

A REPORT FROM KING COUNTY COUNCILMEMBER DWIGHT PELZ

December 1998

More Senior Housing on the Horizon



ONE of the most exciting efforts in South Seattle is the very ambitious project launched by the Southeast Seattle Senior Foundation to purchase the Brighton Place Apartments. The Foundation is only weeks away from acquiring and ultimately converting the 124-unit building into senior housing. Through creative events such as dinners, an auction and even a garage sale, the community raised more than \$800,000.

The site could very well become the premier senior housing complex in the city, and a credit to the neighborhood. The complex, with its 1, 2, and 3 bedrooms apartments, will serve seniors 55 and older in the low to moderate in-

come range. With the Southeast Seattle Senior Center located next door, residents will be able to participate in the full range of activities offered by the Center. This new management can alleviate the long-standing crime problems associated with this building.

Sporting a price tag of \$5.5 million, the Brighton Place purchase is certainly no easy undertaking. The Foundation is financing \$4.5 million of the price, King County will provide \$132,000 for the project, and the City of Seattle is looking to support the Senior Center.

For additional information, please call Gisela Baxter at 206-725-8648, or Jean Veldwyk at 206-725-3103. ●

Elda Behm Garden

TUCKED away in the City of SeaTac's westside neighborhood sits a garden paradise, created and tended by 84 year-old Elda Behm.

This one-acre garden boasts foliage grown from seed from the Royal Horticultural Society, shrubs unique only to the Pacific Northwest, and most importantly, plants with a history of people and places.

Unfortunately, the construction of the proposed third runway threatens to destroy Elda's life work. The Behm property is within the buy-out area for the runway, and the Port of Seattle has plans to purchase the land in the near future.

When garden lovers learned of the ground's pending demise, they banded together to create a nonprofit organization to help save this horticultural treasure. Led by Burien City Councilmember Stephen Lamphear, the Elda Behm Highline Botanical Garden Foundation is putting its time and energy to toward developing a plan to preserve, relocate and care for this area asset.

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Vans for Kids

LAST year, the King County Council created a program to provide surplus county vans to non-profit organizations serving low-income, elderly or youth groups. The program supports county transportation goals to reduce single occupancy vehicle trips, while increasing transit opportunities for people who don't have easy access to public transportation. Children from working families are often unable to participate in after-school and weekend activities because they don't have a way to get to events, or arrive back home again.

In the 5th District, we acquired vans for Bailey Gatzert Elementary School and the Rainier Community Center. Bailey Gatzert will use its van to transport its many homeless students to after-school activities, Saturday Academy and summer daycamp. The Rainier Community Center will also transport children to daycare locations and summer camp, plus use the van for taking senior citizens to various events. ●

Weyerhaeuser IRB

Industry or Suburban Subdivision?

THIS summer, the Weyerhaeuser Co. asked the County Council to authorize \$60 million in "industrial revenue bonds" to pay the costs of its Snoqualmie Ridge development. Snoqualmie Ridge is a "planned community" with 2,000 homes and a marquis 18 hole golf course on 1,343 acres. While there is an office park planned at Snoqualmie Ridge, the lone "industrial" tenant is a maker of toothbrushes which is relocating from Bellevue.

I was the only member of the



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from around the 5th District

Council's Transportation Committee to oppose this tax subsidy to this major corporation. But negative press coverage on this "corporate welfare" proposal led the Council to reconsider, and the proposal died.

There is a time and a place for government economic development programs to aid in the financing of public or private projects which will provide jobs, environmental improvements, or other public benefit. I believe that "industrial" bonds should support manufacturing, R&D or warehousing projects that will create new, family wage jobs. I do not believe that the construction of a suburban tract with \$500,000 homes lining a golf course meets the criteria.

A society which has taken welfare mothers off the public rolls should do the same to a wealthy timber company which dabbles in real estate. ●

TCI Promises More Service (Again)

I have heard from a number of constituents about frustrations with TCI and the lack of service they are providing District 5.

The complaints focus on the fact that other communities have additional channels from which to choose — we District 5 residents are essentially paying the same fees for less service.

You'll be pleased to know that there is some good news for cable viewers.

During the summer the Metro-

politan King County Council approved a cable franchise agreement with TCI that will bring expanded basic cable, plus government access channels, to households across the county. Included in the agreement is TCI's commitment to construct the long-awaited I-net, a public access Internet network that will serve to link schools, libraries, and local government.

Under the terms of the agreement, the county's cable system will be upgraded by March 1, 2000 and will provide subscribers with:

- Increased channel capacity and reliability;
- Improved picture quality;
- Access to Public, Education, and Government (PEG) channels, including County Civic Television (CTV), State Civic Television, Seattle Civic Television, Public Access Channel, CSPAN and CSPAN2, as well as to the County I-net system.

Due to TCI's failure to meet the terms of past contracts, the Council developed a package to protect county residents. Several of these provisions address TCI's agreement

to pick up the bill for cost overruns that result from delays by providing fiber and conduit at no charge to the county. Also, TCI has agreed to provide a \$5 credit per month to subscribers who do not receive the upgraded cable system by March 1, 1999.

This agreement between TCI and King County is a good one that should improve the level of service to area residents.

However, if TCI puts off implementing service upgrades for the southeast Seattle, Tukwila, Renton, West Hill, and Boulevard Park areas, I will make sure they abide by their agreement to compensate you and the county for any delays. ●



Fighting to Reduce Noise at Boeing Field

AS a Councilmember with three airports in my district (Sea-Tac, Boeing Field, and Renton), I have known that airplane/aircraft noise is a *major source of anxiety* for my constituents. Noise from these three airports can disrupt sleep, schooling, or just relaxation in the backyard.

Last month, the King County Council took significant steps to improve life for the communities surrounding the King County International Airport (Boeing Field). For the first time since KCIA opened in 1928, the County has moved ahead to develop a comprehensive noise mitigation package to protect area residents from the noise impacts of air traffic.

The Noise Mitigation Plan

ONE of the greatest problems described by neighbors immediately adjacent to KCIA is the high-pitched roar from daytime engine testing. Planes being repaired or tested must be run at high levels for extended periods of time. To control that noise, the County Council has appropriated \$5 million for the construction of a "Hush House" which is, literally, an insulated hangar or other structure into which the plane is wheeled for purposes of engine run-ups. We will be asking the FAA to match this appropriation.

Following public input, KCIA will construct a noise wall or other barriers along Ellis Avenue to separate the Georgetown neighborhood from KCIA. In addition, KCIA will finally identify the corridor visitors will take to access the Georgetown Steam Plant Museum when it is opened to the public in the near future.

The Council directed KCIA to conduct extensive air pollution and

noise monitoring.

This includes a program to test noise levels at 8 area schools during 1999.

These schools

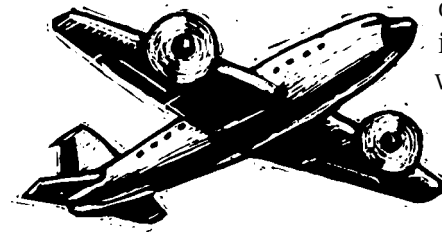
are Foster High, Showalter Middle, Tukwila Elementary and Thorndyke Elementary in the Tukwila School District, and Cleveland High, Van Asselt Elementary, Wing Luke Elementary and Maple Elementary Schools in Seattle. A community oversight committee will be formed to direct the air quality studies.

Finally, KCIA will terminate the leases of tenants that don't comply with agreed upon noise mitigation factors.

The Powers of the FAA and the Part 150 Study

ONE of the great frustrations in limiting airport noise is the tremendous power wielded by the FAA. Under the guise of protecting interstate commerce, Congress has literally given this federal agency the power to overrule most noise mitigation strategies that the Council might seek to impose at KCIA.

The FAA requires that many types of noise mitigation recommendations be evaluated through a formal blue-ribbon committee. This "FAA Part 150 Study" will oversee an analysis of a wide range of



strategies, including flying over non-residential areas such as water or industrial corridors, integrating flight paths with Sea-Tac, pursuing nighttime curfews or restrictions, changing airplane ascent and descent angles, and new technologies.

One of the most exciting strategies to be reviewed will be the creation of a Noise Insulation Program similar to that in place at Sea-Tac. Under this program, homes experiencing specific noise levels will be eligible for double paned windows, solid doors, and extensive insulation.

Family Wage Jobs

KING County Airport must be a good neighbor. But it is also a critical component of the Seattle area economy. It contributes \$1.1 billion of economic activity to the region annually, and supports 25,000 jobs both directly and indirectly. Most of these are family wage jobs, many held by members in the Machinists and Teamsters unions, and the Boeing Professional Engineers (SPEEA).

By adopting these extensive noise reduction strategies, we are showing the County's long-term commitment to reducing noise as well as its long-term commitment for continued positive use of the airport. ●

Elda Behm Garden ...

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Community interest and financial support for the cause continues to grow, and the Foundation has raised more than \$14,000 in cash and pledges. I recently toured the garden and was amazed by the work that went

into it, as well as the legacy which would be lost if it were simply bulldozed. King County will contribute \$2,000 to the cause.

If you would like additional information on the garden, please contact the Elda Behm Highline Botanical Garden Foundation at 439-7362. ●

King County Acquires East Lake Sammamish Rail Line for Trail

IMAGINE a pedestrian/bike path that would link people to major recreational and cultural areas, allowing enthusiasts to bike, walk, run or rollerblade wherever they want all across the county.

Recently, King County took a big step toward making that dream a reality when it purchased an 11 mile stretch of former Burlington Northern/Santa Fe rail line along the eastern shore of Lake Sammamish.

King County's acquisition of the East Lake Sammamish Trail is a critical link to developing a regional trail. It will connect the two largest



segments of this trail — the Burke-Gilman/ Sammamish River Trail that runs from the Ballard neighborhood in Seattle to Redmond, and the Mountains to Sound Greenway, and also serve the two most popular parks in King County — Marymoor Park near Redmond and Lake Sammamish State Park in Issaquah.

This trail should be developed by the end of 1999. Soon enough, you will be able to travel from the Seattle Aquarium all the way to Marymoor Park in Redmond. Or take the trail to a concert at Chateau Ste Michelle in Woodinville or Mount Si, near North Bend. When you have the time I encourage you to jump on your bike or throw on your running shoes and check out this great new addition to our regional trail system. ●

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NEWS



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5th District News is published periodically by the Metropolitan King County Council. Please forward your comments, questions and suggestions to Dwight Pelz at: Room 1200, King County Courthouse, 516 Third Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104-3237.

Phone 296-1005 • Fax 296-0198

E-mail dwight.pelz@metrokc.gov

Web Site www.metrokc.gov